



Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER July 2021

The Rev. Frederick W. Kopp, Pastor

The Rev. Phillip Vender, Pastor Emeritus

Sharing the love of Jesus in our changing world.

Pastor's Ponderings

The Art of Giving

We give of ourselves when we give:

Gifts of the Heart: love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness

Gifts of the Mind: ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions, projects, poetry

Gifts of the Spirit: power, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith

The Gift of Words: encouragement, inspiration, guidance

Emerson said it well: "Rings and Jewels are not gifts but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself."

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

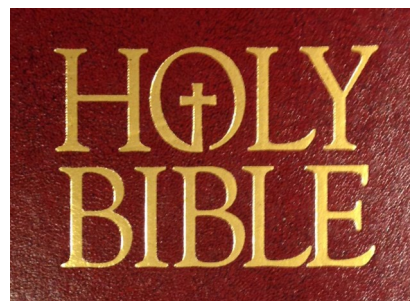
As we remember our Lord who died and gave himself for us as our example of giving. May we be empowered to be generous, selfless, and joyful givers.

Peace

Pastor Fred

PS. The art of giving was taken from a card I received from Candace A. Frerk, RIP.

Pastor Fred's Bible Study: Galatians



Pastor Fred is leading a study of Galatians at Augustana on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:30. It is hybrid; via Zoom and at Augustana.

The dates of the study are July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6. Everyone is invited to attend one or all sessions.

Pastor Fred writes: 'We will explore the book and author Paul who gave us this quote "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Gal. 2:20.' Call the church office at 832-5720 to ask questions or to be placed on the email list for receiving Zoom invitations.

Augustana Summer Outreach Focus: Model Evangelical Primary School Roknola Village, Sierra Leone

In last month's newsletter, there were maps and photos explaining that Augustana supports a school in Sierra Leone. Our support of the school originated from our sponsorship of the Sesay family.

In 2001, Augustana sponsored the Sesay family to come to Buffalo from Sierra Leone, in West Africa. At the time, the nation was experiencing a civil war.

Through the Sesays, we have been involved with the Sierra Leone Cultural Alliance of WNY (SLCA of WNY) and the Evangelical Model Primary School in Sierra Leone. For several years, the people of Augustana have been supporting the children who attend the school by providing money for food. We now also provide funds that go toward building a new school.

Alan Sesay will be at Augustana on Sunday, July 11 to speak about the school and answer questions, immediately after the church service ends.

We look forward to Alan's visit with us and to learning more about the school.

More information and photos are on the Sierra Leone Cultural Association's website.

<http://www.slcawny.org>

Refugee and Immigrant Driving Ministry On The Road Report Update - July 2021

By Paul Kennedy

We received our second grant fund payment of \$3000 from Lutheran Charities for 2021. Last two months we had 6 new individuals start their driving lessons. Also two previous participants have started up their driving lessons again.

Erie County is still testing procedures for individuals to go online to take the written permit test. They are working with High Schools on testing the procedures. We will be having a permit class starting in July.

Also we are working on a raffle fundraiser for this year.

*Service to others is life-affirming.
We engage in service as an expression of gratitude to a gracious God.*

“DREAMS COME TRUE”

By Upstate NY Synod Mission Interpreter, Marcia Brown

Marcia informs congregations about the impact of the ELCA's missions, which are made possible by the donations of congregations. This is her article for July:

Chhani Marandi used to be a domestic worker. She is 24, lives in Nepal, and always dreamed of being a health care professional, inspired by her father's health problems. He died when she was 5, and her older siblings had to leave school and work to support the family. Chhani herself started to do domestic work in third grade to pay for her own education, eventually graduating from 10th grade. Then she heard about a scholarship program from the Lutheran Community Welfare Society, a partner of Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. This is one of many projects supported by ELCA World Hunger that create opportunities for women.

After 18 months of study, Chhani completed her training as an auxiliary nurse midwife, and now works at Anjali Hospital. She plans to also provide health services to her community by phone, and to continue her training so she can provide free care to families in poverty. "It was my dream to be a health worker since the time my family could not afford proper treatments for my father," Chhani said. "I got the opportunity to fulfill my dream from the Lutheran World Federation in Nepal. I realized that it was 'God's grace to me and my dreams.'"

You helped make Chhani's dreams come true through your Mission Support. *Thank you!*

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.



Augustana Gardens

Augustana has a lot of gardens and only 3 gardeners! Paul Hoffman is in charge and Tom and Donna Bartkowski help him out. Can you help out, too? Call/text Donna (425-7870) and ask what needs to be done. You can do the tasks on your own schedule, or work with her on tasks that you feel comfortable with.



An example of a gardening task: Augustana's flowering trees are beautiful. In the spring we weeded, mulched the soil and trimmed off the leaves that grow on the trunk, but they need to be trimmed during the summer, and a few weeds sometimes grow through the mulch. Would you be able to 'adopt a tree' to keep it looking good?



We are working on making some of the garden areas smaller. The next project is moving small landscaping 'stones' and then planting grass seed. Our thought with perennials is to keep the native wildflowers that are already in the gardens. Also, Donna planted some native seeds in the fall and is nurturing them. Come and join the fun and help make Augustana's grounds beautiful.



Take home a regular or large print daily devotional book for July through Sept., or contact the church office and we will mail you one.



Did you notice our new door?

It is on the Rockland side near Eggert, and replaced a door that appeared to be original to the church; 1957! The door matches our two other exterior doors and was installed by the same company.



GENERATIONAL WEALTH PROJECT:

FREE WILLS FOR ERIE COUNTY RESIDENTS

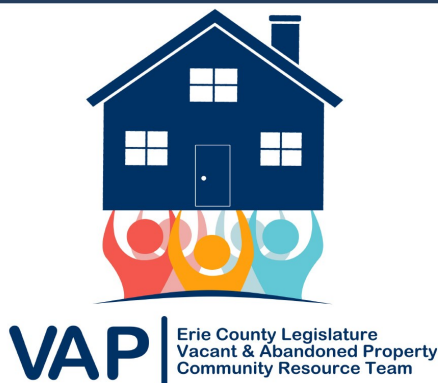
A will can help protect your assets and pass wealth to future generations

Many people choose not to create a will because they think they don't need one, or they assume their heirs will know what to do. However, without a plan in place, heirs are left with little direction. For example, many heirs continue to live in homes that are still in the name of the deceased owners. While this may work temporarily, most entities will only assist deeded owners, and the occupant will face difficulty when applying for a loan, making repairs to the property, negotiating back taxes, or addressing other issues with the property. A will gives future generations a plan to follow to take title and become the legal owner of the property. This is true for other types of assets as well. Carefully crafted wills can also help prevent family disputes and ensure continuing care for dependents.

Did you know that wills are for everybody?

Here are some examples of things you can include in a will:

- Properties
- Cars
- Collectables
- Jewelry
- Personal Items, etc.



Interested in a will?
Check out next steps at
FreeWillsWNY.com Or
call us at
716-855-0203*138

Thank you to Augustana member Kate Lockhart for providing this information. Kate is the director of the Vacant and Abandoned Property Program at the WNY Law Center and also works with the Wills project.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Council Meeting, Thursday, August 12, 7:00 pm (no meeting in July)

Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 through August 6, Pastor Fred's Bible Study at Augustana + Zoom

Upcoming Lutheran Charities Fundraiser

23rd Annual Golf Classic

Monday, August 9 Glen Oak Golf Club, East Amherst
10 am registration, 11 am lunch 12 pm, shotgun start Prizes and raffles!
Details and registration information are on wnylutherancharities.org

Opportunity to Serve at Augustana

Greeter: Greet attendees and take attendance. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex (entry hall, near the sanctuary doors).

Tech Person: Set up the Laptop, iPad and TV for Zoom. Need to be at church at 8:45am. The volunteer only needs to set up, not run the equipment during church.

Building Care: Lock up the church office and outside doors, turn off lights.

Please see **Lance Scarafia** if you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions, or contact him: **(716) 970-0170/ ministeraugustana@yahoo.com** .

WORSHIP QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns about our worship practices, please contact the Church Office at 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com, and Paulette Hotchkiss will get back to you.

Worship on Cable TV: Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV Channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Beigner, Carroll, and Smith lead this worship.

Thank you for your offerings and donations.

You can give your offering at church, US mail it to church, or give online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly).
(For information on [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly), see our website: augustanaonline.org.)

Augustana Lutheran Church

3143 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150

Church Office: (716) 832-5720 / augustchurch@yahoo.com

Pastor Fred Kopp: (716) 984-8541 / augustchurchpastor@yahoo.com

www.augustanaonline.org

Facebook @augustanatonawanda Instagram @augustanalutheranchurchtonny